



COUNTY OF FAUQUIER  
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CATHERINE M. HERITAGE  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Fauquier County Planning Commission  
**From:** Anthony I. Hooper, Deputy County Administrator  
**Re:** Public Training Safety Facility  
**Date:** October 20, 2008

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I wish to address the questions you raised in your October 2<sup>nd</sup> memo.

### **Use of Landfill for Access**

This may be a possibility. However the proposed access would make use of a temporary roadway that may be relocated from time to time. The temporary access would not accommodate fire equipment without some improvements.

Based on VDOT comments, Green Road appears to be the best option, but access for passenger vehicles and small trucks through the landfill could be generally accommodated.

### **Extent of Involvement of Rappahannock/Culpeper**

The County Fire and Emergency Service programs have active mutual aid agreements with both Counties. The use of the shared training facility provides a benefit in meeting the training and supervisory requirements for some training activities. The process of seeking grant funding for the burn building from the State encouraged a regional approach.

### **Other Sites**

Other County owned parcels were assessed and the site adjacent to the landfill was determined to be the most appropriate. In assessing other potential sites, factors considered were: character of adjacent property, site development potential, site development costs, adequate size and potential conflict with the development of other public facilities. The development of the landfill site offers the most economical and efficient use of public funds.

### **Financial Analysis**

If the County were to purchase a site for these facilities it would seek a site of 10 to 25 acres. Land acquisition costs are unknown. Until other sites are identified it is not possible to determine development costs. One of the factors that make the site adjacent to the landfill attractive is the ability to utilize portions of the storm water system and to use the existing access road. These factors reduce site development costs. In response to a question of installing a perimeter fence, an estimated cost of \$63,000 has been obtained for a 6 foot high chain link fence.

### **Explore the Possibility of Splitting the Uses**

Advantages to sharing a common site are shared expenses for site access, storm water management and parking. In future phases, a classroom building would serve both activities the Fire service and Sheriff's office.

Costs would be increased by splitting the two functions. The process of identifying and obtaining appropriate planning reviews would also be duplicated.

### **Alternative Design**

The design will incorporate national standards and guidelines for the development of an outdoor firing range. Based on estimates from other projects, the costs to construct an indoor range would be expected to exceed \$3,500,000 depending upon the size and configuration of the facility.

The design of the burn building will utilize a design developed and recommended by the State Fire Services program.

### **Further Analysis of Environmental Impacts**

No negative impact on wells and streams is anticipated from the development of the public safety training facility. The staff will utilize best practices in the design of the firing range and comply with all Federal, State and local regulations.